Indo-Bangladesh relations

2521. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's relation with Bangladesh have soured recently because of several contentious issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps initiated to solve the disputed issues and the response of the Government of Bangladesh thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The Government of India holds regular discussions with the Government of Bangladesh at all levels including highest political level on all issues pertaining to India-Bangladesh relations.

Foreign Minister's Kabul visit

2522. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited Kabul on way to Islamabad;

(b) if so, the issues discussed in Kabul and the understandings reached as a result thereof; and

(c) how far, if paves the way for establishing transit trade between India and Afghanistan through Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) External Affairs Minister visited Kabul on 15 February, 2005. He called on President Karzai and Baba-e-Millat and former King Zahir Shah and met Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah. In the discussions with Afghan leaders, bilateral relations were reviewed, including India's assistance programmes for the reconstruction effort in